

JAMES SCHLESSEL
OCT 1
72022
9 DECEMBER 63

SECRET

CODE MESSAGE IS BELOW

ROUTINE

87787

BALN LOND AMMA AEGI BERN HADH ANKA AAKI DOUN PARI
MUNI BAGH KHAE LISB COPE RASO BEIR LEOP MEKI FROB NEWD
DANA RABA NOBI HAGU VIEN KAHITPLI SAGO HEID ATHE JIDD
TNTZ CYRU TEEB CEBR OSLO CAIB MOGA PACY GNAV ROHE FRAN
PESAND

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(INFOR RELEASABLE TO LIAISON. NO NOFORN IN THIS MESSAGE)

1. SYRIA: THE POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE SYRIAN REGIME APPEARS TO BE RESOLVING IN FAVOR OF THE MODERATE FACTION LED BY PREMIER HAFIZ.

EFFORTS BY HAFIZ, A MILITARY MEMBER OF THE BAATH PARTY, TO ASSOCIATE THE REGIME WITH NON-BAATH POLITICAL ELEMENTS HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM, AND BAATHIST EXTREMISTS LED BY VICE PREMIER UMRAH WHO OPPOSE THIS MOVE ARE BEING ECLIPSED. GENERAL UMRAH STILL OCCUPIES HIS GOVERNMENTAL POST, HOWEVER, AND DESPERATE COUNTERACTION BY HIM AND HIS SUPPORTERS IN THE ARMY AND THE BAATH-DOMINATED NATIONAL GUARD CANNOT BE COMPLETELY DISCOUNTED.

THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT PRO-HASTIR GROUPS WILL TRY TO EXPLOIT THE DIVISION WITHIN THE REGIME BY ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE POWER.

(COPY)

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

J.C. GRAHAM

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J. B. CASTLE

AMERICAN EMBASSY
TELETYPE SECTION